

75-256610

10 September 1975

STAT

[Redacted]
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

[Redacted]

ILLEGIB

Dear Terry:

Thank you for calling my attention to the situation of the stranded Vietnamese. I confess some of the same frustration that you do about these people, even though some were actually able to escape. We have been following the resettlement of the various Vietnamese who did escape and had anything to do with CIA, and I think we have a clear conscience there. Unfortunately, however, there are some very difficult situations in this area which we cannot solve.

Thank you again for calling this to my attention. I hope the next one will be one I can actually solve.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby
Director

WEC:sfc (8Sept1975)

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25X1

Executive Registry

25-2524

Area Economist with OER.

Patty
06/03/75

June 2, 1975

Dear Mr. Colby,

Here are two press clippings reporting a situation
I wish I could do something about directly.

But I am powerless to do anything except call it to
the attention of more powerful people, especially
fellow Christians such as yourself, who may be in
a position to get something done.

Sincerely,

OER/D/LA

25X1

Stranded Vietnamese Appeal For Rescue

By PAUL SCOTT

LONDON — "People of the world . . . Help us! of Europe, whom we once defended against the of Asiatic barbarians, listen now to the alarm . . . People of the civilized world, in the name of and s. . . Unity, we are asking you to help. . . The nishes. The shadows grow darker hour by hour. o our cry. . . God be with you and with us." was the last dramatic appeal of Radio Free st even while Soviet troops were bursting in the In October, 1956, the radio of the Hungarian m Fighters went off the air and the silence was nning than the words. t tanks smashed their uprising as the West stood wrung their hands in shame. They were those the West had abandoned to Communism. They

were the human herd of one of history's greatest cattle deals.

A similar tragedy is being repeated in another part of the world today. On Phu Quoc (Cuoc), a small island 50 miles off the coast of South Vietnam and 30 miles from the coast of Cambodia in the bay of Thailand, there are 42,000 Vietnamese pleading, begging, crying for some one to come and rescue them before the North Vietnamese use their newly captured naval power to take over the strategic island.

Since a majority of the refugees on the island are Catholics who fled North Vietnam in the mid-1950s, these Vietnamese are pleading for their lives: They know that if they become prisoners of Hanoi that their fate will be sealed — almost certain death.

The shortwave and ham radio messages being sent hourly from Phu Quoc are similar to those that were sent

from Budapest before the West deserted the Hungarian Freedom Fighters and their fate was sealed by the powerful Soviet Army. As in the case of the Hungarians, all these Vietnamese want is a chance to live in freedom and not under Communist rule.

NUNS MAN MACHINE GUNS

Latest naval intelligence is that the South Vietnamese flag still flies over the island and that there are 3,000 South Vietnamese troops defending the island while the refugees send out their Mayday signals to be rescued. Several nuns are even manning machine guns to protect their orphans. 700 small boats (mostly sampans) are in the water around the island.

(Continued on page 7)

"TO RE-ESTABLISH
ALL THINGS IN CHRIST"

(Ephesians 1:10)

The Wanderer

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**Calls For
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Former Pentecostal

THE WANDERER

Stranded Vietnamese Appeal For Rescue

(Continued from page 1)

Phu Quoc is hilly and the Vietnamese refugees have small arms and are prepared to put up a defense. They have sufficient food and water for from a week to ten days. But to successfully defend the island or evacuate it, they need U.S. naval and air power to protect them.

WILL HELP COME?

Whether this help will be forthcoming to these brave people is now in doubt.

A proposal by the staff of the National Security Council to put a ring of U.S. destroyers around the island until the people could be safely evacuated was rejected by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

The President's chief adviser on Vietnam objected to the move as too provocative on the grounds that the North Vietnamese might try to bomb the U.S. naval units. He argued that the line on helping refugees had to be drawn some place and that Phu Quoc was on the other side of that line.

North Vietnam had earlier demanded that the United States withdraw its naval forces from the immediate waters near South Vietnam and President Ford submitted to the Communist blackmail on the recommendation of Kissinger.

"THE EVACUATION IS OVER"

At a press briefing on Wednesday, May 21st, presidential press secretary Ron Nessen said that the matter of Phu Quoc is now before the National Security Council. He said that official American policy at this time is that "the evacuation of refugees from Vietnam and their territorial waters is over." This indicates that the Administration refuses to do anything to rescue 42,000 Vietnamese on the island. This number includes 17 priests, 300 nuns, and 1,000 orphans.

POLITICAL PRESSURE

There is one good sign. Pressure is beginning to build up in Congress for the President to act.

Representative Melvin Price (D., Ill.), chairman of the powerful

House Armed Service Committee, and Sen. Jesse Helms (R., N.C.) have called the White House urging the President to take emergency measures to rescue these Vietnamese.

(As we go to press, we learn that Sen. Helms has requested a face-to-face meeting with President Ford to discuss the Phu Quoc issue. — Ed.)

Former House Speaker John McCormack, Boston, Mass., has made several telephone appeals to members of his own party in Congress to call on the President to send U.S. naval vessels to protect the refugees on Phu Quoc. So far, he has been unsuccessful in reaching the President or breaking through the "iron curtain" that Kissinger has installed around the President.

Warnings have come to the White House from other lawmakers that the failure of the Ford Administration to help these 42,000 Vietnamese could turn into a worse scandal than Watergate since the U.S. inaction will doom tens of thousands of these refugees to certain death.

Will the Ford Administration stand by and let these refugees be slaughtered because a "fifth-rate," Hitler-like dictatorship threatens to bomb our warships? If America allows this type of blackmail, we are no longer a great nation. We are a nation that does not deserve the God-given freedom that we now enjoy and take for granted.

Is it not now the time for all Americans, who love freedom, to answer the call of these pleading, begging, crying refugees of Phu Quoc by wiring, writing, or calling President Ford and our representatives in Congress to demand that the U.S. Navy be used to save these refugees?

The hour is late but there is still time and hope, if the President acts immediately. Can we do less and still honestly celebrate the 200th birthday of the greatest Republic that the world has ever known — a Republic which came into being with the help of the French Navy at the historic battle of Yorktown. The challenge is before us.

Editor's Note: As *The Wanderer* went to press, a group of private citizens were reportedly organizing a mercy mission in an attempt to bring medical supplies and communications equipment to these beleaguered freedom fighters. For additional commentary on the plight of the Vietnamese on Phu Quoc and what you can do to urge the President to act, see W. H. Marshner's editorial on p. 4.

Pope Paul

Issues

Exhortation Of

The Orphans Of Jerry Ford

By WILLIAM H. MARSHNER

Mr. Ford's highly touted rescue of the *Mayaguez* and its crew from Koh Tang Island contains an element of bitter irony. The operation brought scores of U.S. naval vessels and hundreds of U.S. aircraft within 40 miles of another island, where there is something much more important to rescue.

The other island is Phu Quoc. On it are 42,000 refugees from Communist aggression, two-thirds of them Roman Catholics. Many are orphan children. At least three hundred of them are nuns. Some of the priests there are the very ones who 20 years ago led their congregations in toto, on foot, from Hanoi to the South, seeking safety. This Spring, when Hue and Da Nang fell, the same congregations moved again to Phu Quoc, sometimes with the help of U.S. naval vessels. Now the same vessels steam by and ignore them.

The people of Phu Quoc are determined to fight. They have arms but only a limited supply of food and ammunition. It is only a matter of time before the Communists strike in force. In propaganda bulletins released in Saigon, the PRG is already claiming to have occupied the island. But U.S. intelligence sources know that the claim is false. How? Because the rescue craft involved in the *Mayaguez* affair picked up radio signals from the refugees. They listened to the cries of anguish and steamed on.

On or about May 9th, the possibility of rescuing these people was discussed in the National Security Council. According to Capitol Hill sources, rescue was vetoed at that time by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger -- himself a former refugee. Kissinger is said to have argued that since Phu Quoc is legally part of the territory of

Vietnam, any rescue attempt would be an "invasion" and hence would jeopardize future relations with the Communist government. Can you believe that?

Meanwhile very few people are doing anything to put pressure on the White House, even though such countries as South Korea, Taiwan, Chile, and Canada have agreed to accept these abandoned people as immigrants. John McCarthy, director of Migration and Refugee Services for the United States Catholic Conference, has made some representations to State Department officials. Cong. Larry McDonald (D., Ga.) is circulating a letter on the House floor, and about 30 signatures have been obtained. (Both of the so-called Catholic priests in Congress, Cornell and Drinan, were asked to sign but refused to do so.) A recent effort to put the House Republican Steering Committee into action got nowhere. Clearly it is time for Jerry Ford to hear from the Catholic grass roots.

Ford is feeling pretty good about himself these days. The *Mayaguez* rescue so raised his stock among GOP conservatives, that White House aides have told political columnists Evans and Novak that the President now thinks he has Reagan on the run. It is urgent, therefore, that all Catholics, especially Catholic conservatives, tell Jerry Ford he had better think again. If our brothers in Christ on Phu Quoc are not rescued, Mr. Ford can take his trophy for freeing the *Mayaguez* and toss it in the ashcan.

That very message, a little more delicately phrased, of course, should be telephoned or telegraphed immediately to the White House: (tel. 202-456-1414). Siwanna a switchboard for your Vietnamese brothers.

language particularly in this Country who though feel nothing against it.

Let Fr. I

"It is a depart from the natural (the case) the attempt to c these laws, laws on ne would really concept of which, as is would be mi these new la able to uncov of false mora justify them."

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